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ABSTRACT

A flotation swimsuit is provided for providing strategically distributed buoyancy to a wearer. The flotation swimsuit includes a form-fitting torso covering which includes a retaining pocket for enclosing a unitary flotation element. The unitary flotation element includes a backsheet formed from a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer and having an inner surface for presentation toward the wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from the wearer. The unitary flotation element also includes a plurality of enhanced buoyancy regions integrally carried by the backsheet for providing enhanced buoyancy to specific areas of the wearer's body. Each of the enhanced buoyancy regions is formed form a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of the backsheet and each enhanced buoyancy region extends outwardly from the outer surface of the backsheet.

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